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The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. -- James Monroe

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NOVEMBER 11, 1940

Eyes on Greece As Balkan War Begins

Greatly Outnumbered in Air, on Land and Sea, Greece Fights at Serious Disadvantage

NO HELP FROM TURKS SEEN

British Fleet and Rough Terrain Is Chief Hope of Defenders; Hitler-Mussolini Rift Rumored

Although Hitler has not relaxed his efforts to bomb Britain into submission and to secure a greater degree of cooperation from France and Spain by diplomatic and other types of pressure, the Italian invasion of Greece occupied the center of the European stage last week, and it may continue to do so for some weeks to come. Whether the new Balkan war will spread, whether it will bring glory or disgrace to Mussolini, whether it is a part of the joint Axis drive to win complete control over Europe, or whether it is a private adventure upon which, as now rumored, Mussolini has embarked against the express wishes of Hitler—all these are questions which Europe is asking in respect to the war in Greece.

If Greece should lose her independence as a result of this war—a very likely possibility—the name of one more small nation will be added to the already long list of small states engulfed through no fault of their own since the present European conflict began—Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania. Of the truly neutral states, only Switzerland and Portugal still remain untouched, and with their borders unchanged. And if the Greeks should be defeated, they will revert to a condition of subjection which they know well as a nation, since Greece has enjoyed political independence for only a little more than 100 years.

A Glorious History

It is a curious fact that most people know much more about the Greece of ancient times than about the Greece of today. This is understandable, of course, when considered in the light of the important effect which the democratic institutions of the ancient Greek city-state, Greek art, architecture, music, literature, drama, and language have exerted upon the modern world.

Although the Greeks themselves sometimes attempt to trace their development back forty centuries, the actual recorded history of Greece extends back only to 776 B.C. It was 500 years before the beginning of the Christian era that Athens, the leading city of the Greeks, was approaching her golden age—one of the marvels of history. At that time the Greeks were approaching the highest level of civilization the western world had ever known.

It was about that time that Solon, the wise leader and lawgiver, was establishing the first forms of democratic government in Greece. (The word "democracy" itself comes from these ancient Greeks. It is based on two Greek words, *demos*, meaning people, and *kratos*, for power, or power to rule.) Of course it was only a beginning, and by modern standards a crude one, for many Greeks were slaves, but it planted the seeds of democracy, and of such legal protections as the right of trial by jury.

In the years following, Pericles came into leadership and the golden age began. He gave the Greeks an example of what good government could be, he encouraged art and athletics, as a strong and vigorous

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AMERICAN FARMER

MCMANIGAL

A Light That Failed

By WALTER E. MYER

I shall never forget the celebration of the first Armistice Day—November 11, 1918. No one who lived through that exciting period will ever forget it. I was in Washington at the time, but that is not a matter of importance. The spectacle enacted in the nation's capital was duplicated in every city of the land. Never before or since has there been such a spontaneous outburst of joy; such an expression of relief; such an upswing of hope on the part of millions of Americans. "The war is over," shrieked the headlines, and the cry was taken up by the newsboys and re-echoed from thousands of throats. People, ordinarily staid and dignified, danced in the streets, laughed hysterically, blew whistles, slapped strangers on the back. A great weight, which had long lain heavily upon minds and hearts, was lifted, and feelings, long pent up, broke forth in joyful celebration. What satisfying relief that the fearful, anxious days of war were past! But there was something more than relief in the faces of America's millions that day. There was confidence and hope. There was faith that better days were at hand; days of peace and democracy and reconstruction. The "war to end war" had been won, and the world had entered an era of good will and stability.

So we thought as we danced and sang on that November day which now seems so deeply buried in the past. We all know now how short-lived were those hopes of yesterday. They burned brightly for a few short years, then flickered and went out. Now there is darkness again; a darkness blacker than we knew during those sad, frightening days which preceded the Armistice; darkness such as the world has not known in modern times. And with the breaking of our hopes has come despair, disillusion; in some cases cynicism. "Of what use," people say, "was this effort of a quarter of a century ago? Of what use are all our strivings for peace and security?"

What the disillusioned forget today is the thing so many of us forgot when the great chance came over 20 years ago. We forgot then that war—even victorious war—does not create a better world order. Victory on the battlefield can do nothing more than give to the constructive forces the opportunity to operate. A victory over forces of hate, disorder, or aggression can give to peace-loving men and women a chance to build structures of peace and justice. Forces of stability do not move in automatically as the soldiers march off the scene. Forward-looking citizens must work tirelessly in peacetime for good government within and for just relations among the nations. The peacetime builders are the only builders whose edifices endure, and if the peacetime activities are neglected, disorder and darkness are sure to return.

We live again in an era of force. How we may be called upon to maintain our liberties and our national ideals we do not know. But whatever efforts we may make will be doomed to failure unless they include thinking and planning; unless we develop sound national and international policies; unless they are buttressed by sacrifices of time and energy as we, in the classroom, the library, the home, and at the ballot box, work out programs of stability and justice.

The hopes of November 11, 1918, are in ashes at our feet, but Armistice Day, 1940, need not be a day of disillusion. We may move forward again if we have the strength and resolution to apply to our future conduct the bitter lesson of a light that failed.

Effects of War Upon U. S. Farmer Studied

Sales to Europe Are Greatly Curtailed as Result of British Blockade of Continent

DOMESTIC PLAN EXAMINED

Continued Aid to Agriculture Is Approved by Both Parties Until Permanent Solution Found

As we turn our attention this week to the nation's farm problem, we should observe three important facts at the outset. First, this problem did not figure prominently in the presidential campaign. That, in itself, is an encouraging sign, for it indicates that the farmers are in a better position than they have been in recent years. If they were not, we would have heard much about their plight during the campaign, and there would have been a heated issue over what should be done to help them.

But such was not the case. Not nearly so much attention was devoted to the farm issue in the recent political contest as in most presidential campaigns since the World War. Moreover, both Willkie and Roosevelt, although they did not see entirely eye to eye on the farm problem, were in fairly general agreement that aid, similar to that which has been given to farmers in recent years, would have to be continued until a more permanent solution could be found.

Abundance of Food

The second important fact which should be brought out early in a discussion of the farm problem is this: The United States, whether it remains at peace or has the misfortune of becoming involved in war, is in absolutely no danger of running short of food. Our farms are able to produce an abundance of all the essential foods which we require. We already have large surpluses of grains and other farm products stored away, and it would be possible, within a very short time, to expand our present output of food more than enough to provide for any possible emergency.

Now we come to the third fact of importance—the effect of the present war on the American farm problem. Thus far, our farmers have lost a considerable part of their markets as a result of the conflict. The British blockade has shut off the great bulk of our trade with Europe. Before the war began, more than half of the cotton which we sold abroad went to Europe. Our farmers also sold large quantities of wheat, tobacco, lard, and numerous other food products to European customers. Nearly all these sales have now been cut off.

But what about England—is she not buying more from us? On the contrary, she is buying much less of our farm products than she normally does. She feels compelled to use nearly all the American money which she controls—money which British citizens had acquired by investing in American industries—for airplanes and other war weapons. She can purchase most of the food she needs from her empire, and she can pay for it with British money or buy it on credit. She cannot use British money in the United States, and we do not permit her to buy from us on credit. So England is limiting her food purchases from the United States to the lowest possible level.

The American farmer is partly making up for this loss of trade in two ways. First, he is selling more of his products to Latin America than he did before the European war broke out; and second, he is selling

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PRESIDENT WILSON AND HIS CABINET

HARRIS AND EWING

Historical Backgrounds

By David S. Muzzey and Paul D. Miller

The President's Powers in Time of War

DURING recent months, since the inauguration of the national defense program, the President of the United States has been exercising powers comparable to those which are exercised by the chief executive in time of war. In certain instances, these powers have been specifically bestowed upon him by an act of Congress. In others, they rest with the presidential office by virtue of constitutional authority. For example, when the President concluded the agreement with Great Britain by which



DAVID S. MUZZEY

American destroyers were exchanged for the privilege of building air and naval bases on British possessions in the Western Hemisphere, the President relied, in part at least, on the powers he assumes as commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy. The defense agreement with Canada, concluded some weeks earlier, was based upon similar powers.

Presidential Powers

The Constitution of the United States divides the war powers of the federal government between the President and Congress. As has been pointed out, the chief executive enjoys tremendous powers by virtue of his position as "commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States." Once the country is at war, therefore, a large measure of responsibility for its conduct is vested with the President.

The power to declare war and to provide the resources, human and material, to prosecute it, is vested by the Constitution not in the President but in Congress. It has been argued by many that the President actually exercises even this power, except in a technical sense. As one member of Congress has aptly put it: "Congress has always declared war when the President desired war, and Congress has never attempted to declare war unless the President wanted war." Moreover, by his control of foreign relations, the President may create a situation which makes war inevitable, leaving Congress little choice but to make an official declaration.

Once Congress has declared war, the task of organizing the nation's war effort, as well as of making ultimate decisions on matters of military policy, falls primarily on the President. Congress must supply funds and enact much legislation relating to prosecution of the war, but the pressure of time and the complicated nature of many

of the problems involved make it necessary for it to delegate to the executive branch of the government far more extensive powers than those ordinarily included in delegations of legislative authority.

Lincoln and Wilson

Historians are agreed that, during the Civil War, Lincoln assumed powers far beyond those vested in him by the Constitution or specifically conferred upon him by Congress. He increased the size of the Army and Navy, without congressional authorization. He ordered public funds paid out before they had been appropriated by Congress. It is true that Congress later passed a law making valid all the acts of the President as if they had been done "under the previous express authority and direction of the Congress of the United States." Lincoln admitted the unconstitutionality of certain of his acts, but justified them on the ground that they were essential to preserve the Constitution itself.

During the World War, it was not a question of Woodrow Wilson's having violated the Constitution in exercising the war powers. Wilson exercised even greater powers than Lincoln, but most of the powers were bestowed upon him by Congress. For the most part, Congress passed legislation outlining general purposes and authorizing the President to fill in the details—to create the offices and organizations and to determine how the law was to be administered. During the World War, Congress delegated powers to the President far more freely than in any previous war. Before the war was over, he had almost unlimited powers over nearly every phase of American life. Among his other powers, he could regulate and prohibit exports; take over and operate the railroads; regulate "the importation, manufacture, storage, mining, or distribution of any necessities"; requisition "foods, fuels, and other supplies necessary for any public use connected with national defense"; fix the price of wheat, coal, and many other commodities.

Since the beginning of the Roosevelt administration, vast powers have been conferred upon the President in order to enable him to deal with emergencies of an economic nature. Some of these, such as the National Recovery Act, have been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. In order to expedite the national-defense program, similar "delegation of power has been resorted to by Congress. In the event the United States should become involved in war again, still further delegation of power would undoubtedly take place, for an elaborate plan of industrial mobilization has been drafted, ready to be presented to Congress upon the outbreak of war.

Our Neighbors -

"**J**ACK WILLIAMS must be one of the most promising boys in school," said one of the spectators watching Jack lead the cheering for the game. "He is certainly a lively fellow, full of pep and energy. He never lacks for the right word, either. He has a ready tongue and a sharp wit. He will be a go-getter when he gets into business. I predict a great future for him."

This friend would be surprised, however, if he could drop into the classroom sometime to see how Jack reacts to work. He is peppy enough out on the football field but in the classroom he seems to be dull and uninterested. He has pep enough for sport, but apparently not enough for hard, grinding toil. He does very well the things which he enjoys, but he will not buckle down and expend his energy when he is confronted by a hard piece of work.

It would be a mistake, however, to assume that Jack will get nowhere in the world. He probably will not succeed at a job which requires close application and painstaking effort. He will never be a professional man for he is not exact enough. He is not a hard worker. He will probably not succeed as a businessman because he is careless of details and will not apply himself when work has to be done. But he may succeed as a salesman—not a salesman of the highest grade, but one who works in a field where the handshaker and the backslapper tends to get ahead. He may even be a politician. He will never rise to the top, but he would probably do well as a political leader of a ward, and he might go rather far in city politics. On the whole, he is likely to be less successful and less popular in later life than he is now.



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PHIL SAWYER is proud of his son George, and why shouldn't he? George brought home his report card last week, and his grades were high, among the highest in the class. He was complimented because of his excellent conduct. He is a bright, industrious boy, and his father has high hopes for him—hopes which are mingled, however, with anxiety and fear. George is starting out in life under a very serious handicap, for he is

a colored boy. There are many occupations which are not open to him, however great his ability may be. And that is not all. Many opportunities are closed to him. Many people will dislike him simply because he is colored. Mr. Sawyer's heart aches as he thinks of the snubs which his boy will probably meet as he goes through life. If he should get into trouble of any kind or be a subject of suspicion, he is less likely to be justly treated than a white boy would be. Thus, despite his intelligence and abilities, he is likely to go through life under serious handicaps.



Mr. Sawyer is not bitter about this—only sorrowful and anxious. He has many reasons, however, to be thankful. There is an excellent colored school in the city, so George has really good educational advantages. He will have a chance to acquire skill in some occupation, and though the field is more limited than it is in the case of a white boy there remain many opportunities. And race prejudice against the Negro is not as strong as it once was. So there is real hope in Mr. Sawyer's mind as he talks to his son about preparation for the future.

* * * *

MARIAN and her friends are on their way home from the party. They appear to be in a great hurry. As a matter of fact, there is no particular reason why they should hurry home. But Marian has the habit of speeding. Even though her time is worth very little, she will drive somewhere at a breakneck speed and then not know what to do with herself when she arrives.

Marian enjoys her reputation as a speeder. It is very amusing to her. She likes to frighten her passengers and she doesn't mind it a bit when she has a narrow escape in traffic or when she narrowly avoids an accident which would have injured others. She isn't really a bad sort of person. In many ways she is likable. But her indifference about the safety of other people is a very serious thing. She cannot expect that the breaks will go her way in every case. If she continues to take chances in traffic, there will be an accident someday which will cause her suffering or remorse the rest of her life. A second is all it takes to meet death or to cause death on the highway if one is careless at the wrong time. Marian may enjoy the adventure of reckless driving, but she is skating on thin ice. Sorrow or death may be just around the corner unless Marian mends her ways.



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"**I**T is a terrible thing to let the people of Europe starve if it can possibly be prevented," Grace says, and she adds that Americans should do something about it. We should ship food to the French, Polish, Dutch, Belgians, and other people who will probably be hungry during the winter if they do not get relief. It would be criminal for us to stand

aside and do nothing, she thinks, when we have more wheat and other foods on hand than we can use.

John replies that it will be a frightful thing if millions in Europe are obliged to go hungry, but he says that we can do nothing about it. If we send food to Europe, the Nazis will get it. England's only hope of defeating Germany lies in the blockade. She must prevent food and other necessary supplies from getting into Germany, and we should not help to break the blockade by sending anything to people who live behind the German lines. To do so would be to help Germany win the war, and we must

not do anything to bring about that result. It may seem a heartless thing to prevent hungry people from obtaining food, but we cannot afford to take the risk of helping Germany to win.

Marion takes middle ground. "I have just read an editorial in the *New Republic* of October 21," she says, "and this editorial describes certain conditions under which we might help to feed the hungry of Europe. If Germany agrees that Americans should distribute the food; if they agree to return to France, Belgium, and the other conquered nations as much food as they have taken away; and if they agree to allow food to go to England, too, safe from submarine attack, we could help the suffering people of Europe without helping Germany. The Germans may refuse to accept such terms, but why not make them the proposal and see what they do. If they refuse, we will at least have done what we could. The plan is surely worth trying."



Program Is Undertaken to Provide Workers for U. S. Defense Industries

IN a bare room of the handsome new Federal Reserve Building, Washington, D.C., Sidney Hillman works at a glass-topped desk. No other member of the National Defense Advisory Commission is busier than he. This Lithuanian immigrant of some 30 years ago rose to prominence by making the Amalgamated Clothing Workers one of the country's strongest unions. Now it is his business to provide industry with the labor it needs for the armament program.

The assignment is a difficult one. Already our expanded manufacturing is pinched for draftsmen, lens grinders, tool designers, patternmakers, and machinists—and the great demand has not even begun. A year from now the emergency plants will have been built, the naval building program will be well under way, and defense spending will be putting billions into the pockets of the people, pushing their demand for consumers' goods to new heights. Then we shall need additional millions of trained workers. How does Mr. Hillman propose to deal with this problem? His answer is, "By planning."

There are some skilled workers among the unemployed. They are relatively few, of course, and they are being absorbed rapidly, but meanwhile efforts are being made to round up the "misplaced" skilled workers. These are men who were forced out of their trades by the depression and who are now grocery clerks, filling-station attendants, and the like. Short refresher courses can quickly fit them for their old jobs.

The labor commissioner hopes that before this supply of skilled labor has disappeared into the factories, large numbers of workers will have been trained by the vocational schools and industry. Most boys are not encouraged to start a three-year apprenticeship in the expectation of becoming all-around mechanics. The plan now is to teach them one simple process and put them right to work. The head of a vocational school asks local factories

what kinds of workers they need, and his students are given 200-hour courses in the processes the factories want them to learn. From school the young men go straight to the factories where they work under the supervision of skilled mechanics. Each mechanic supervises a number of machines, keeping his novices busy on the rougher work and handling himself only the phases they have not mastered. In this way, the mechanic's skill is used to the best advantage, and the beginners are producing while they learn. The system is not new, but it is being carried to many industries which have never before used it.

There is another way in which planning will make the most of available labor. As far as possible, new plants will be located where there is an adequate supply of labor. This practice will keep workers from crowding into sections where they cannot find living quarters. It will prevent the running up of costs by employers' bidding against each other for labor. It will further the Defense Commission's scheme for decentralizing industry, and it will bring back to life a number of our "ghost towns."

Will these measures prevent industry's being held up by a serious shortage of labor? Mr. Hillman thinks they will. "With proper planning," he says, "with industry and labor and government offices collaborating closely with my division as they are doing right now, we can keep at least a month ahead of the demand in any locality."



YOUNG FARMER

CATERPILLAR TRACTOR COMPANY

• Vocational Outlook •

Farming

A DISTINCTION must be made at the outset between farming as an avocation and farming as a career. Many people are interested in part-time farming, in cultivating a small plot after their regular working hours. Farming of this kind is to be encouraged. It is a mistake for families to place all their eggs in one basket. They establish themselves more securely by rendering at least a part of their living independent of their jobs.

Different considerations, however, must govern the choice of farming as a full-time career. One may think of farming as a business and may wish to own and operate a farm. He will then have to consider the expense involved. This will depend, of course, upon the location of the farm and the quality of the soil. A piece of land suitable for truck farming on the outskirts of a large city may be very expensive so that a considerable outlay of capital will be required for its purchase.

The problem of a farm devoted to the raising of staple crops, in a section such as the Middle West, is another matter. If one is to have a farm given over to wheat or corn and hogs, he should obtain not less than 40 acres. By careful cultivation and hard work he can make a living on a farm of that size, barring hard luck, but he cannot expect to live luxuriously or to accumulate capital. If the land is any good, he must pay \$50 to \$100 an acre, so that the cost of the land alone will be from \$2,000 to \$4,000, and he cannot get along very well with an expenditure of less than \$2,000 for equipment and farm animals. If he should wish to operate a farm of 160 acres, he can live very comfortably in ordinary times. But a farm of this kind can scarcely be obtained and equipped for less than \$10,000.

It is possible, of course, for one to borrow a large part of the money which he invests in a farm. This was frequently done in the early days of American agriculture. But the prospective farmer should disregard the speculative successes which have become a tradition in American history and should determine not to buy a farm unless he can pay cash for it, or at least come close to doing so. If, under present conditions, or under conditions likely to obtain in the immediate future, one should go heavily into debt for his farm or his equipment, he would probably find that during periods of hard times it would be difficult even to pay interest on the money borrowed in addition to his taxes and his living.

Although farmers' incomes are at best uncertain—because in so many instances they depend on factors over which they have no control—there are certain specialized forms of farming which offer attractive possibilities. Dairy farming is one of these, although during the depression years the price of milk declined so sharply as to threaten many dairy farms with bankruptcy. Truck farming, or the raising of

fruits and vegetables, is a profitable business near cities, where a market can be found for the produce. Fruitgrowing is especially profitable in certain sections of the country. One who plans to enter any of these specialized fields should talk with farmers who are engaged in such enterprises and should furthermore investigate local conditions and needs.

In spite of all the difficulties and uncertainties which are associated with farming, more than a fourth of all the people of the nation live on farms and it is natural that many young people should be interested in farming as a vocation. Farming has a strong appeal because it is more than an occupation, more than a means of making a living—it is a way of life. The farm family lives out in the open country, and enjoys pure air and quiet. The farmer, to a considerable extent, is his own boss. His daily operations are not supervised.

Information Test

Answers to history and geography questions may be found on page 6. If you miss too many of them, a review of history and geography is advisable. Current history questions refer to this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

American History

1. The Louisiana Purchase was made from (a) Britain, (b) France, (c) Spain, (d) the Indians.
2. Which of our presidents received the entire electoral vote when he was elected?
3. Where did an American army win an important battle 15 days after the signing of a peace treaty at Ghent?
4. For many years the United States paid tribute to pirates in (a) Africa, (b) Asia, (c) South America, (d) the West Indies.
5. What French ambassador to the United States announced that he was going to appeal to the American people against their president?
6. What former vice-president was tried for treason after an attempt to seize United States territory?
7. What New Englander invented a machine which brought about the extension of slavery?

Geography

1. Name a country in South America which has almost as much land and almost as many people as all the rest of the continent.
2. The river which drains the United States between the Rockies and the Appalachians is the
3. What continent have explorers found uninhabited?
4. Can you name the "ABC Powers" of South America?
5. Boot-shaped Italy appears to be about to kick the island of (a) Sardinia, (b) Corsica, (c) Sicily, (d) Corfu.

6. What fertilizer is found in a part of Chile where no vegetation will grow?
7. What group of more than 100 islands is held by Britain and claimed by Argentina?

Current History

1. Since the British control the seas, why have they failed to purchase larger quantities of American farm products?
2. What are the two principal methods by which the Roosevelt administration has been undertaking to solve the farm problem?
3. What are Mussolini's principal objectives in seeking to control Greece and the Greek islands?
4. What is the IMRO and what part might it play in the present Graeco-Italian war?
5. Name some of the more important contributions of ancient Greece to western civilization.
6. From what two sources does the American president derive his wartime powers?
7. Name three ways in which the schools contribute toward building economic security.
8. What position does Sidney Hillman hold on the National Defense Advisory Commission and of what does his work consist?
9. Who is sometimes referred to as the "Little Moltke"?
10. Why is the United States government watching closely the island of Martinique these days?

♦ SMILES ♦



"NOW JUST WATCH, SOON'S HE GETS HIS SIGNAL CLEAR IN HIS MIND—BOY!"
REYNOLDS IN COLLIER'S

"He talks a great deal about his family tree."
"Yes, a family tree is much like other trees—the smallest twigs do the most rustling."
—ADVANCE

"Did you hear that when my neighbor returned from abroad, he fell on his face and kissed the ground of his native town?"
"Emotion?"
"No—banana skin."
—WALL STREET JOURNAL

Cop: "Is your horn out of order?"
Driver: "No, it's just indifferent."
Cop: "What do you mean—indifferent?"
Driver: "It simply doesn't give a hoot."
—CAPPER'S WEEKLY

"George says ill health always attacks one's weakest spot."
"You do have a lot of headaches, don't you, dearie?"
—LABOR

Merchant: "Don't buy anything from the shop next door today."
Wife: "Why not, dear?"
Merchant: "They've borrowed our scales."
—SELECTED

"The roof is so bad that the rain comes through on my head. How much longer is this going to continue?" wrote the angry tenant.
"What do you think I am—a weather prophet?" replied the landlord.
—LABOR

"I'm glad to meet a man who started at the bottom and worked his way up. Tell me, how did you begin?"
"I was a bootblack, and now I'm a hair-dresser."
—CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE

The Week at Home



HOUSING FOR DEFENSE

Army camps throughout the nation have been rushing work on new housing to take care of the draftees who will soon begin military training.

WIDE WORLD

Notice

The present issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER goes to press election day and consequently does not contain the returns. In our next issue, we shall discuss the outcome of the election, not only as it applies to the presidential contest but also as it affects the congressional situation and the political situation in the various states.

Army Promotions

Promotions in the Army are rapid these days. Last summer Congress passed a law permitting the President to make practically any number of promotions which the new military establishment seemed to require.

Under this law the President has almost doubled the number of generals, raising the total number to 219. Some of these, however, are only "temporary" generals. A number of general officers have been raised a step, brigadier generals becoming major generals, for example.

The official policy in making all promotions necessitated by the emergency expansion of the Army is that each officer must have such rank as befits the position he occupies. Thus the recent elevation of Lieutenant Colonel Lewis B. Hershey to the rank of brigadier general does not mean that he is considered a more capable artillery officer than all the colonels and the lieutenant colonels of his branch who were not promoted. He has been given the rank because he is an important executive in the selective service system.

Rapid promotion in the Army must make the Navy feel a little neglected, even though the reason for the discrimination is perfectly apparent. The naval forces face no such rapid expansion as the Army, and their numerical strength will never compare with that of the other arm now that the United States is raising a draft army. The last few months have brought only a few appointments to high naval rank, and these have come in the tradi-

tional way. There is no law which permits the President to make emergency promotions in the Navy.

"FM" Stations

FM (frequency modulation) has official permission to establish its broadcasting stations. The Federal Communications Commission has authorized a number of stations scattered all over the country to start broadcasting as soon as they are ready. The granting of licenses for these stations, said the chairman of the FCC, is an important milestone in the history of radio.

FM experts claim that this new type of broadcasting has several advantages over the older kind. It is free from static, it gives more tone range, and it permits more stations to use the same channel without interference, they say.

Although the only FM broadcasting which has been carried on up to this time has been of an experimental nature, several manufacturers have already put receiving sets on the market. Other sets are certain to appear as the transmitting stations multiply.

"Town Meeting"

On November 14 the voice of the town crier will be heard over the National Broadcasting Company's Blue network at 9:35 p.m., eastern standard time. To some six million Americans his cry will herald the opening of the "Town Meeting of the Air" series for 1940-1941.

This series, now an established institution of our democracy, has gained rapidly in popularity since its beginning five years ago. People enjoy hearing its prominent speakers debate the issues of the day and enjoy even more, perhaps, hearing them

challenged with questions from the audience present in Town Hall, New York City.

"Is This Our War?" is the topic for the first program, Thursday night of this week. "How Should We Meet Totalitarian Aggression in the Americas?" will be discussed November 21, and the following Thursday H. G. Wells will be one of the speakers on "What Kind of World Order Do We Want?" The second series of programs will have national defense as its theme, and the third series will take up democracy. Late in February "Town Meeting" will take a six-week tour to give people in other sections a chance to ask their questions. It will broadcast from Birmingham, Alabama; Los Angeles and San Francisco, California; Seattle, Washington; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Des Moines, Iowa.

The Navy

The dramatic launching of the draft has temporarily diverted attention from America's first line of defense, but the Navy will soon claim again its share of popular interest.

The main strength of the Navy is in the Pacific and is concentrated chiefly at the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii. Here is a large force made up of fighting ships and auxiliary craft of all descriptions. In strict accordance with our traditional policy, it will be held together as one fleet, though a few heavy cruisers may be detached from it for service in the Atlantic.

In the Far Eastern waters there is the Asiatic fleet, made up of three cruisers, an aircraft tender, 13 destroyers, 12 submarines, and some auxiliaries.

The Atlantic is watched by the Patrol Force. It includes three battleships, five heavy cruisers, about 50 destroyers, one aircraft carrier, from 20 to 40 submarines, and a number of patrol boats, mine sweepers, etc.

The fighting power of these naval forces was increased late last month by the acquisition of nine new refueling ships. We now have 12, all told, the greatest auxiliary refueling fleet in the world. Each of these vessels can carry 145,000 barrels of fuel oil, and all of them are fast enough to operate along with the warships.

Soapless Cleaners

With very little publicity, a rival of soap is appearing on the market. If all the brands of the new product were counted, it would be necessary to say that something like 60 rivals of soap are appearing. But all of these brands can be lumped together under the name of "soapless detergents."

A detergent is a cleansing material, and during the past 2,000 years soap has proved a very efficient one. It has certain disadvantages, however. It will not

do its work when there is an acid present. It does not lather well in cool water. In hard water it forms a scum which soils clothes and deposits a stubborn water line around the bathtub.

During the World War, blockaded Germany tried to find a soap substitute which could be made without fats, either animal or vegetable. Her scientists failed at the time, but in continuing their research after the war they found that the sodium salts of sulfated fatty alcohols would clean as well in hard water as in soft. One American company soon bought the patents the Germans had taken out over here. Another imported a German chemist and produced its own soapless detergent. Now scores of these detergents are being sold as laundry powders, shampoos, and dentifrices, and many others are being used in industrial processes.

The business is still a relatively small one. Perhaps only 100,000,000 pounds of the new substitutes for soap are sold in the course of a year, while the annual sale of soap amounts to 28 times that volume. But more will be heard of soapless detergents in the future. Manufacturers have their eyes on the great hard-water triangle which covers a large part of the Mississippi Basin. There thousands of laundries and millions of housewives offer a vast potential market for a cleaning agent which will lather in any water.

Ambassador Kennedy

The man popularly known as "Joe" Kennedy owes his fame in part to his faculty for finding success everywhere and in part to his fine family of four sons and five daughters. As our "most bombed ambassador" he has added a new installment to a career already remarkably varied.

When Joseph Patrick Kennedy was born, September 6, 1888, his father was a coal dealer and minor political boss in Boston, Massachusetts. While attending parochial school, Joe went into business, selling papers in the winter and working on excursion boats during vacations. He left Harvard in 1912 with \$5,000 he had earned running a summer sight-seeing bus.

After 18 months as a bank examiner, he borrowed enough money to buy a great part of the stock of the Columbia Trust Company. His father was a director of this concern, and in 1914 Joe was elected its president—the only 25-year-old bank president in the United States. That same year he married the beautiful daughter of Mayor Fitzgerald of Boston.

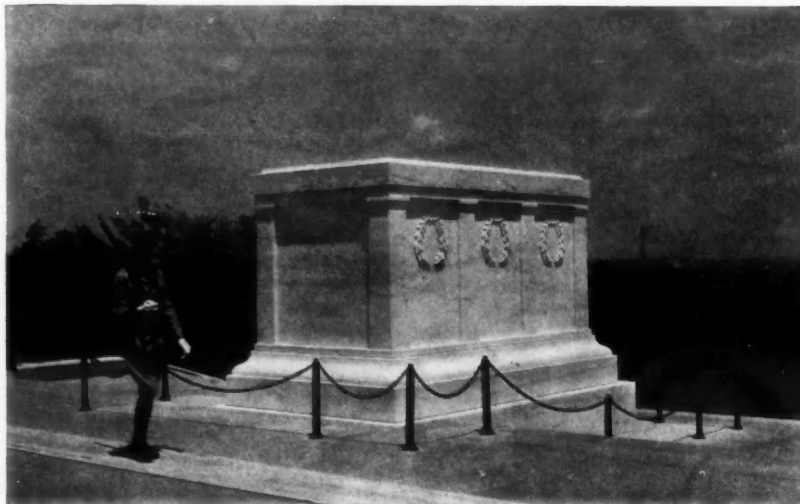
Becoming assistant general manager of a Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation plant in Massachusetts, Kennedy spent the war months building ships for Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt. Then he bought a chain of small movie houses, took a fling at producing "westerns," bought stock in several big theater corporations, and left the entertainment business at the age of 42 with a profit of \$5,000,000.

In 1932 he backed Roosevelt and helped finance his campaign. Two years later he was made head of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and before he resigned in September 1935, he had won the praise of even those who had denounced him as a market manipulator. At the next election he brought out a campaign book called "I'm for Roosevelt." In 1937 he served 75 busy days as chairman of the Maritime Commission, and in December he was given the most sought-after post in the diplomatic service—that of ambassador to the court of St. James.



JOSEPH P. KENNEDY

W. W.



THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

With problems arising from war to the fore, the tomb of the unknown soldier in Arlington National Cemetery attracts more than usual attention on Armistice Day, 1940.

The American Observer

A Weekly Review of Social Thought and Action

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The Week Abroad

Martinique Mystery

Apparently fearing that France may decide to align herself with Hitler, the United States is now showing increasing concern over the status of French possessions in the Western Hemisphere. Most of these are in the Caribbean area, where French Guiana, the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe are to be found. Secretive movements of American naval craft toward Martinique, last week, suggested that this island is the center of interest. Here are to be found Fort-de-France, capital of the French West Indies, a naval base, several warships, and 500 weather-beaten American-made planes—all of which Washington officials are determined shall not fall into the hands of Hitler.

Discovered by Columbus in 1502, claimed

November 3, 1940, about 3,500,000 tons of shipping are known to have been destroyed. The Germans claim the toll to have been higher. Nearly 500 ships, totaling more than half the lost tonnage, were British. It is true that these figures seem small when it is considered that Britain possessed some 21,000,000 tons of shipping when the war broke out. It is also true that her shipyards have been busy, and that counting the shipping of Danish and Norwegian registry now under British control, the British merchant fleet is as large today as when the war broke out, or perhaps even larger. But the tempo of German raids on shipping has increased sharply in recent weeks. As many as 13 ships have been sent to the bottom in a single day. Among others, the big Canadian-Pacific liner *Empress of Britain* has been sunk.

munications center. At no point in this important province is the flag of the Rising Sun any longer to be seen.

In the Far East, where "face" counts for a great deal, such a withdrawal entails great loss of prestige. The question is asked, therefore, why has it been done? Chinese propagandists claim the Japanese were driven out by force. Neutral observers are inclined to credit reports that ravages of tropical diseases, which are reputed to have cost Japan the lives of 74,000 soldiers in that one region within the space of 11 months, had much to do with the decision to withdraw. The Japanese, however (apparently forgetting why they were supposed to have entered French Indo-China in the first place), assert that new Indo-Chinese bases are so favorable for operations against the Burma Road that it is no longer necessary to maintain a force in Kwangsi.

Poland's Future

While the part of Poland that fell to Russian arms has been incorporated into the Soviet Union and now shares with other Russian states the privilege of sending resolutions of "undying gratitude" to Josef Stalin, the status of the Poles brought under German domination has not yet been clearly defined.

When the Polish armies collapsed over a year ago, grandiose schemes were taken off the shelves of the German foreign office. As punishment for the crime and arrogance of resisting Nazi aggression, Poland was to be given the position of a "slave state," to serve the German "master race." The farms of German-held Poland were to produce the crops dictated by a Nazi official in Berlin; the factories were to be geared to the output of munitions demanded by the German high command; Polish populations were to be evacuated from regions regarded as suitable for colonization by German nationals. Poland, in brief, was to become the nucleus of an expanding colonial empire on a continent lorded over by Germany.

Much of this scheme has been accomplished. Estates both large and small belonging to Poles have been confiscated. All movable property, even church furniture, has been registered and is now subject to seizure without compensation. And thousands of Poles have been evicted from their homes and left no alternative but to join the "voluntary" labor ranks organized by the German military authorities.

Nevertheless, though German conduct would seem to belie it, there has been a most significant change in the tenor of Nazi discussions about the future of Poland, at least during the last few months. Berlin appears to be hushing up the talk of "master race" and "slave state" that was so popular in the first six months of 1940.



CALLING FOR HELP?
SEIBEL IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Perhaps because even the German military staff is less confident of a clear-cut victory in Europe, the German press has now turned to discussions of a "new order" in Europe, in which each nation, including the Poles, will play a part.

"Little Moltke"

Ever since Greece won her independence from Turkey in the wars of 1821-1830, the reins of her government have been held, with few interruptions, by army cliques and generals. It is not surprising, therefore, that the present dictator of Greece should be an army man. He is General John Metaxas—a heavily built and rather puffy man, 69 years of age.

Born on the island of Ithaca, the supposed home of Ulysses, Metaxas obtained most of his education in Berlin, where he studied military matters and developed such an open admiration for Prussian organization and discipline that he later came to be known in Greece as "Little Moltke"—Moltke himself being one of

Germany's most famous pre-World War strategists and organizers.

Returning to his native land in 1890, Metaxas advanced into a general staff position in time for the Balkan wars of 1912-13. He became an extreme reactionary, often running afoul of the government's policy. He was condemned to death once and exiled several times, but always managed to extricate himself from these situations. He opposed the Greek Republic from the time it was established, in 1924. Ten years later he founded a fascist-monarchist party which succeeded in restoring the monarchy. With George II on the throne, Metaxas proclaimed himself dictator one hot summer night in 1936, and he has remained firmly in the saddle ever since.



JOHN METAXAS
W.W.

Orinoco Rubber

Scientists recently returned from an extensive survey of the Orinoco valley of Venezuela have revealed the existence of a vast and untouched area where wild rubber trees grow in great abundance. The Venezuelan government is now casting about to find some way in which this region can be developed. It wishes to do this, not only as a means of increasing the national wealth, but to stabilize the country's economic structure—a structure which now rests almost entirely on the shaky foundation of the export of petroleum in large quantities. The government would like to attract American capital for this purpose. Since the United States is now very interested in developing sources of rubber in the Western Hemisphere in order to reduce its dependence on Far Eastern rubber (the imports of which might be cut off by a hostile Japan), some Venezuelans are confident that financial help from Washington will be forthcoming.



BRITISH CONVOY

Despite the convoy system, British shipping has suffered heavily from submarine attacks during recent weeks.

by France 101 years later, Martinique last assumed a position in the headlines on the morning of May 8, 1902, when its famous volcano, Mount Pelee, exploded suddenly and with great fury, killing all but one of the 26,000 people in the hillside town of St. Pierre, and destroying 18 ships in the harbor within a few short minutes.

A very mountainous island, 50 miles long and about 20 miles wide, Martinique is one of the most attractive spots in the Caribbean. Its blue mountains are blanketed with tropical forests; its valleys floored with pale green cane fields, and dotted with small towns and plantations. The chief products of the island—sugar, tobacco, vanilla, pineapples, and bananas—are produced mainly on French-owned plantations, which are worked chiefly by the Negroes and Asiatics who comprise a majority of Martinique's quarter of a million people.

Since France asked Germany for an armistice, Martinique has been partially blockaded by British naval craft, trade has stagnated, and the possibility of a transfer to American sovereignty has become the chief subject of conversation.

British Shipping

Dirty British coaster with a salt-caked smoke stack
Butting through the channel in the mad March days
With a cargo of Tyne coal,
Road rails, pig lead,
Firewood, ironware, and cheap tin trays.

No less than the planes and pilots of the Royal Air Force, the ships and crews of Britain's merchant fleet, one of which is so graphically described in the lines of John Masefield quoted above, spell the difference between victory and defeat in the present war. Day and night, in fair weather and foul, alone and in convoy, these ships steam slowly to and fro carrying the supplies urgently needed by a great island fortress under siege. Nosing through mine fields blanketed with fog, twisting and turning to avoid heavy bombs dropped from above, and torpedoes fired from below, pounded by the storms and high seas of autumn, they run great risks and the damage has been heavy.

In the one year and two months which elapsed between September 3, 1939, and

Anticipating a shortage of shipping—which would be a serious thing for besieged Britain—the British government recently placed an order for \$50,000,000 worth of ships in the United States, an amount 10 times as great as that of all British shipping purchases in this country since the war began. According to reports, the British wish to begin shipbuilding here on a mass-production basis.

Kwangsi Evacuated

When Japanese officials attempted to justify the entry into Indo-China of their armed forces by stating that bases were needed in this French colony to protect a possible retreat of Japanese forces in South China some time ago, the explanation was taken nearly everywhere with a large grain of salt. Recent developments, however, suggest there may have been something to it. After less than a year of costly occupation on a large scale, the Japanese army has suddenly and mysteriously withdrawn from all its positions in the southern province of Kwangsi, including Nanning, the provincial capital and an important com-



THE HARBOR OF ST. PIERRE, MARTINIQUE

United States naval detachments have been seen off this French possession. French islands in the Western Hemisphere may be seized to prevent their falling into German hands.

The War and the American Farmer

(Concluded from page 1)

more to his own countrymen. There has been a sharp rise in business in the United States as a result of the national defense program and of the large foreign purchases of war supplies. The city people have benefited by this rise and are thus able to buy more farm products.

During World War

All in all, however, the American farmer is losing more by the war than he is gaining. This is a very different story from that of the last war. In that conflict, there were tremendously increased demands for our farm products. Britain and her allies, including ourselves later on, needed all the wheat, cotton, beef, pork, and other farm products that they could possibly obtain. The prices of these products rose enormously. Since prices were so high, American farmers put forth a great effort to increase their output. Fields which were not very good and which ordinarily were used for grazing were plowed and cultivated and put to crops. Farmers made money, bought more land, purchased expensive equipment, and expanded all their operations as if the war boom were going to last forever.

But it did not last forever. When it came to a close, when the war orders dried up, farmers were producing much more than they could sell. Surpluses began to accumulate. Prices dropped rapidly. Many farmers could not pay for the land and implements which they had bought on credit. Many of them lost their farms. There was growing distress throughout the agricultural country.

Not only did foreign nations, after the war, begin producing as much food as they had before, but they began producing even more. The people of these nations decided that they did not want to have to depend upon outsiders for their food. They looked forward to future wars, and determined to be as independent as possible. So they produced more themselves and bought less from us.

Still other developments were taking place during the 1920's and 1930's to hurt the American farmer and to cause changes in his way of life. It was discovered that greatly increased quantities of cotton could be grown in undeveloped regions of such countries as Argentina, Australia, Russia, and Egypt. This rapidly growing competition from these lands has dealt a severe blow to our cotton farmers.

Changes in U. S.

Then there has been a falling off in the demand for certain types of farm products in the United States. Habits of diet have been changing. For example, people eat less bread than they formerly did. Wheat farmers have felt the effect of this development.

Here is another interesting and important fact: Tractors and automobiles have taken the place of hundreds of thousands of horses. The horses ate oats and corn and fodder and hay. The tractors consume gasoline. This increases the demand for gasoline, but cuts down the demand for certain farm products.

The coming of the tractor, together with many other new farm mechanical devices, has created still other problems. Large-scale farms, using the latest equipment and mass-production methods, are making it harder and harder for smaller farms to meet competition and stay in business. Many farmers, consequently, have had to give up their lands and go to work for low wages on larger farms. This trend has helped to create the army of share-croppers and migratory workers in the United States. Of course many small farms are just as efficient as larger ones and can compete with them successfully, but it is a fact that

large-scale farming is making it increasingly difficult for the small farmer to survive.

Now let us turn our attention to some of the plans which have been tried in the last 10 years to improve the conditions of the nation's farmers. President Hoover's administration was the first one to make a direct attack upon the problem of surpluses. It established a Federal Farm Board, which was given several hundred million dollars for the purpose of buying up surplus farm products when they threatened to drive prices down too low. The

stored cotton or wheat for a good price and repay the loan.

This plan is known as the "ever-normal granary." It is patterned after an experiment which was tried successfully many centuries ago. Joseph used it, the Bible says, when Egypt experienced seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.

In other ways, the government has acted to relieve the farmers. It buys up the surplus of such crops as apples, butter, cabbage, oranges, and sweet potatoes when too much is produced—and gives the sur-

set up in every part of the country have a large measure of control and responsibility over all activities in which they cooperate with the federal government. They argued, moreover, that the Roosevelt administration, until the war interfered, was making successful efforts to increase the foreign sale of American farm products through the reciprocal trade treaties.

(Since this article went to press on election day, we are unable to say whether the farm program will be directed during the next four years by a Willkie or a Roosevelt administration. As we have indicated, however, there are expected to be no very great changes in the program regardless of the outcome of the election.)

References

"The Case History of Wheat," by Bliss Isely. *The Atlantic*, May 1940, pp. 632-638. Mr. Isely takes wheat farming as an example to illustrate the seriousness of the general farm problem.

"The 32,000,000 Farmers," *Fortune*, February 1940, pp. 68-71. A picture of the United States as the greatest agricultural nation in the world.

"The Industrial Revolution Hits the Farmer," by P. F. Drucker. *Harpers*, November 1939, pp. 592-601. The machine is one of the most powerful of the forces which created the farm problem.

"Rainbow Over the Farm," by R. Burlingame. *Harpers*, December 1939, pp. 50-59. Industrial demands for raw materials promise to relieve the farmers of some of their surplus crops.

WILD RICE HARVEST

Wild rice or "Indian wild oat," as it is sometimes called, has become an American delicacy. A few years ago Minnesota realized that its extensive lake beds of wild rice constituted an important natural resource. These beds, believed by some authorities to be the largest in the world, cover 200,000 acres and produce an annual crop worth half a million dollars.

It is hoped that the conservation measures enacted by the state legislature will eventually build the industry into a \$1,000,000 one. The beds are now protected from drainage, excessive harvesting, and the use of floating threshing machines. Last year the post of commissioner of the wild rice harvest was created and a Chippewa Indian was made first commissioner.

The Indians still harvest the rice just as their ancestors did before the coming of the white man. Chippewa braves pole their small boats through the maze of ponds and lakes and run them into the yellow grain, so that their squaws can beat the kernels into the boat. Like their fathers, they take care not to stir up the mud on the lake bottom, and they leave half of the grain to seed the bed for the next year. Unlike their fathers, they pay a 50-cent license fee for the privilege of gathering the rice. Every autumn nearly 3,000 Indian families take part in the harvesting.

Information Test Answers


American History

1. (b) France. 2. Washington. 3. At New Orleans, January 8, 1815. 4. (a) Africa. 5. Citizen Genet, 1793. 6. Aaron Burr. 7. Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin.

Geography

1. Brazil. 2. Mississippi. 3. The Antarctic Continent. 4. Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, the three most influential countries of South America. 5. (c) Sicily. 6. Sodium nitrate comes from a desert region. 7. The Falkland Islands.

PRONUNCIATIONS: Aegean (eh-jee'an), Aeschylus (es'ki-lus), Corfu (kor-foo'), Crete (kreet'), Cephalonia (sef-a-loe-ni-a), Euripides (u-rip'i-deez—u as in use), Herodotus (heh-rod'o-tus), Kwangsi (kwahng'see'), Metaxas (meh-tack'sas), Pericles (pair'i-kleez'), Phidias (fid'i-as), Piraeus (pi'ree'as—i as in ice), Praxiteles (praks-it'e-leez'), Salonika (sah-loe-nee'kah), Thucydides (thu-sid'i-deez—u as in use).

FARM PRICES			TOTAL FARM INCOME
			
1919	151	216	\$14,436,000,000
1929	80.2	98.5	11,221,000,000
1932	33.7	44.1	4,606,000,000
1940	59.4	68.2	EST. 8,900,000,000
CENTS PER LB.	CENTS PER BU.	CENTS PER BU.	

HOW PRICES WHICH THE FARMER RECEIVES FOR HIS PRODUCTS HAVE VARIED

idea was that the government would hold the products and sell them later when crops might not be so abundant and prices were better. Unfortunately, however, surpluses continued to pile up, despite this plan, and prices continued to drop disastrously.

The Roosevelt Program

When the Roosevelt administration came into power, it took the position that farmers must be induced to cut down their output, producing only as much as could be sold. So it adopted a plan of paying farmers to keep part of their land out of cultivation. This land cannot remain idle, however. It must be planted in alfalfa, clover, or other crops which tend to restore the soil rather than to wear it out. In this way, the government helps to improve the nation's soil at the same time that it cuts down farm output.

plus to people on relief. It has made loans to farmers who are in danger of losing their land, and to tenant farmers who wish to buy farms of their own. It has bought up land which is very poor, which never should have been farmed at all, and is turning it back to grass or to trees. It is helping small-scale farmers to purchase their supplies and to sell their products on a cooperative basis in order that they may compete more successfully with large-scale farmers. Government scientists are attempting to discover new industrial uses for surplus farm products.

A Costly Program

Even though this is a costly program—it has been costing in the neighborhood of a billion dollars a year—both Willkie and Roosevelt agreed during the campaign that most of it should be continued until something better is worked out. They both



THE FARMERS VOTE

Farmers have generally approved the crop control programs undertaken by the Roosevelt administration.

It is impossible to figure out just exactly the quantity of various farm products which can be sold in any given year. So another plan has been adopted, one somewhat similar to President Hoover's farm board, enabling the farmer to store away part of his crop during good years, when he raises more than he can sell. The government tells the farmer that, if he will put a part of his cotton, or wheat, or some other product, in a warehouse, it will lend him enough money to get along. Then, when his harvest is poor, or the nation's crops as a whole are not good, he can sell the

recognized the fact that unless farmers have sufficient purchasing power the nation cannot be prosperous. But Willkie insisted that the program is too much controlled from Washington and that the farmers are losing their independence. He also stressed the point that not enough of an effort has been made to dispose of our surplus farm products in foreign markets; that we have allowed others to undersell us and push us out of these markets.

Roosevelt supporters replied to these charges by saying that the hundreds of local farm organizations which have been



THE STRATEGIC POSITION OF GREECE

Spread of War Expected as Result Of Italian Conflict with Greece

(Concluded from page 1)

little nation of artistically minded people began to produce such men as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle; Phidias and Praxiteles, the sculptors; Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, the dramatists; Aristophanes, the great writer of comedies; Herodotus and Thucydides, the historians—men such as these contributed to the glory that was ancient Greece.

Great Contributions

We still imitate the architecture of the Greeks, strong influences of which can be seen in the Supreme Court Building and in the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, and in almost every other city. We speak a language profoundly indebted to the Greek tongue; we still read the works of Athenian writers with profit. Through these and countless other gifts, Greece has lived on. Every western civilization has borrowed and learned from the Greeks of old.

The Greeks declined when they began to fight among themselves, disregarding the growing power of their neighbors. Athens and Sparta fought long and disastrous wars. In 338 B.C. Greece was conquered by Philip of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great, and from that time until early in the last century, Greece was ruled by foreign peoples.

The Greece of today offers a somewhat different picture. Geographically, of course, it is the same nation. Covering a total area equal to that of New York state, it extends in the form of a stubby, broken peninsula southeastward into the Mediterranean about equidistant between the southern tip of Italy and the coast of Turkey. It is like a finger, or a series of fingers, of the Balkan peninsula. Its coast line is ragged, deeply indented and winding. Peloponnesos, a large stretch of land in the south, is all but cut off from the rest of Greece by water. A good part of Greece—one-fifth of it, in fact,—lies in the 6,818 Greek islands which sprinkle the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas. Some of these islands, of course, are larger and more important than others. There is Crete, a large island, 135 miles long, which dominates the southern entrance to the Aegean Sea; Corfu, in the northwest, too close to the heel of the Italian boot for Mussolini's comfort; Cephalonia, which commands the western entrance to the Gulf of Corinth and the Corinthian Canal, which cuts Greece in the center (see map above), and so on.

A Poor Country

In addition to being divided badly by the sea and its long watery arms, the Greeks are shut off from one another by mountain ranges which twist back and forth for the entire length of the peninsula.

Once these mountains were forested. But the forests were cut; the hills and mountains could not hold the soil. For centuries the autumn and winter rains washed the soil down from the once wooded slopes and carried it gradually into the sea. What had once been the garden of Greece became rocky and unproductive. The results can be seen clearly in the Greece of today. It is a poor country. Its people are poor, and the signs of their poverty are everywhere. Seven million people live in Greece today. About 61 per cent of them attempt to wrest their living from the thin soil, and a poor living it is. The farms are small. Thousands of them are less than one acre in size, and contain only one or two farm animals and a wooden plow to support the large families which live upon them.

The cities offer little more promise. The professions are overcrowded, and becoming more so each year. There are some minerals in the mountains—iron ore, bauxite, and lignite, and some industries manufacturing textiles, shoes, soap, paper, and cigarettes, but capital to develop and maintain industry is woefully lacking. For the most part Greece must count on two sources of income. On her merchant fleet, which consists chiefly of very old and decrepit ships bought at knockdown prices from owners who can no longer afford to pay the high insurance costs necessary to maintain registry under the British, American, or French flags. And on her agricultural products—olives and olive oil, wine, currants, and raisins, figs, and on such delicacies as the honey from Hymettus blossoms.

Political Life

The prevailing poverty has exerted an important influence on Greek political life. Discontent and unrest, caused by a low standard of living, is the natural state of affairs. For a large part of the 110 years which have elapsed since the Greeks won their independence from Turkey (with outside help) political control has resided in the hands of the army, and in its various cliques. Of the five kings who preceded the reigning monarch of Greece, George II, three were deposed, and one was assassinated. A republic was tried after the World War, and finally discarded. On August 4, 1936, an army general, John Metaxas, became premier. He dissolved parliament, abolished political parties, suspended constitutional guarantees, and finally, in July 1939, established himself as dictator for life.

In last week's issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER we discussed a few reasons why Mussolini may want Greece, its poverty notwithstanding. It is possible that Mussolini is impatient because so far Italy has little to show for her part in the war, and that he may have felt it necessary to show

the Italian people that Italy is not going to emerge from the conflict empty-handed. It is just possible that he may have been anxious to get into Greece before Hitler could set foot in that land to claim it for his Reich. But in the absence of explicit information, it is generally assumed that Mussolini's invasion is one phase of the Axis campaign to dominate the Balkans and to drive England from the Mediterranean. The possession of Greece would aid Mussolini in gaining both of these objectives. For the present, his immediate objectives may be the port of Salonika, and the Greek islands in the Mediterranean, or both. The former offers a road of conquest into the Balkans; the second an improved position in the Mediterranean.

Salonika is not the largest city of Greece. With only 267,000 people, it is smaller than Athens (500,000), and of the port of Athens, Piraeus (287,000). But in Balkan affairs, Salonika is more important than Athens and Piraeus together. Located in the northwestern corner of the Aegean Sea, Salonika dominates the mouth of the Vardar River. This river, it should be noted, extends north of Greece into the heart of Serbia. Down the Vardar Yugoslavia ships a large proportion of her goods for transshipment to foreign markets. Along the banks of the Vardar the one good railway line into Greece runs on its way from Belgrade to Salonika, thence down the eastern shore of Greece to Athens and Piraeus. At Salonika it joins with two other railway lines, one leading east, and one leading west. Salonika, then, is the chief communication center of this part of the Balkans.

Macedonia

If you take a draftsman's compass and trace a half circle, with a radius of about 160 miles, north and west of Salonika, you will find within its bounds a vaguely defined stretch of mountainous territory known as Macedonia. It is important to take note of this, because Macedonia is likely to be one of the thorniest and most controversial—possibly the most important—problem in the southern part of the Balkan peninsula, no matter what the outcome of the Italo-Greek war may be. Macedonia is not so much a geographical region as a political movement. The right to control it has been claimed at various times by Greece, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria, all three of which it now overlaps. It is the center of a very famous terrorist society known as the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization, IMRO for short. The favorite activity of this organization has been political assassination. Greek, Bulgarian, and Yugoslav officials have fallen under its knives and bullets. What its objectives are, not even the IMRO seems to know. Its members have talked vaguely of an independent Macedonia, but they have permitted themselves to be used as the tools of the Greeks, the Turks, the Soviets, Italians, French, and other national and international interests at various times. Briefly, the chief function of the IMRO has been to act as a weapon, hired out to the highest bidder for the purpose of creating political disorder.

The fact that one wing of the Italian army is now trying to push its way across the mountains of north Greece to the east, indicates that Mussolini would like to get his hands on Salonika. In the hands of a strong power, mastery of Salonika implies mastery of the Vardar River and its railroad which, in its turn, implies mastery of the Macedonian movement. In control of northern Greece, therefore, Mussolini could wield the Macedonian movement against Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, if he wished. Many observers believe that this is his intention. An early outbreak of violence in Macedonia is

foreseen, therefore, if Mussolini establishes Italian troops in Salonika. Such a development would foreshadow a possible Italian bid for domination in the Balkans, an eventuality which might bring Italy into a field already staked off by Germany. It is therefore being watched very closely.

Mussolini's Aims

Mussolini's second, but perhaps more important objective is to secure control of the Greek Aegean and Mediterranean islands, thus establishing Italian bases close to the Dardanelles and within striking distance of Egypt. Entrenched here, the Italians might prevent the British navy from raiding communication lines between Italy and North Africa. But before this is done, the Italian navy will have to risk battle with British naval craft—something it has so far been reluctant to do. It will have to move through waters already strewn by British mines to reach the islands. What is more, so long as Greece remains undefeated, British ships and aircraft can attack Italy proper from Greek bases, which is a serious factor from the Italian point of view. The fact that British troops have been landed on some of the key islands, such as Crete, indicates that the war will be bitterly fought.

At the time of writing the Italian campaign is not going very smoothly. German sources have been sharply critical of the manner in which Mussolini bungled the opening moves. He failed, it is said, to make adequate preparations, to disorganize mobilization by bombing the right concentration points, and to put Greek airdromes, munition dumps, and bridges out of commission, as he should have, at the outset. Mussolini's error was apparently in believing that the first show of force would cause the Greek government to collapse. But it must be remembered that the main Italian forces have not yet been used. Turkey, with the approval of Russia, has decided against coming to the aid of Britain and Greece at the present time. This being the case, Greece must fight against very heavy odds, even when British help is counted.

References

"After Greece—Islam?" by Edward Kleiner. *The New Republic*, November 4, 1940, pp. 617-619. Italy's objective in attacking Greece is to impress the Arabs with a show of fascist strength and thus to encourage revolt among Arabs against the British.

"The Near East Dreads Italy," by A. Viton. *Asia*, August 1940, pp. 422-424. Commercial and industrial ambitions give rise to Italy's plans for conquest of her weaker neighbors.

"Italy's Theater of War," by H. C. Wolfe. *Current History*, June 1940, pp. 25-27. Italy's attack on Greece is part of a many-sided strategy to gain control of the Mediterranean.

"Modern Odyssey in Classic Lands," by M. O. Williams. *National Geographic Magazine*, March 1940, pp. 291-346. Greece has made many contributions to civilization.



GREEK PEASANT WOMEN IN ATHENS
In the background can be seen the ruins of ancient Athenian glory.



From Knowledge to Action



BUILDING ECONOMIC SECURITY

NEA

Sixth of a series of preparatory articles on American Education Week, which began November 10.

Economic Security

NO nation is strong and powerful if its people are insecure. If the families of the nation cannot support themselves so as to maintain health and efficiency, the nation will be weak. That is why the building of economic security has been selected as one of the topics for Education Week—one of the topics in the general program which centers upon "Education for the Common Defense."

The United States has always ranked very high among nations from the standpoint of the security of its people. In no other large nation has so great a proportion of the population been able to maintain as high a standard of living as the people of this country have had. It is easy to see why the standard of living has been relatively high here. When the nation was established, the people found themselves in possession of rich natural resources. In no other region of equal size was there such a wealth of fertile land, of forests, and of minerals. The land was not thickly settled. During the early years of our history, there were undeveloped lands in the West. The people on the whole were intelligent and resourceful. There seemed nothing to prevent their achieving a very high standard of living.

Of course, there never was a time when all the people of the country were well off. There has always been a large amount of poverty here, though not as much as in most other nations. One reason was that when families found themselves unable to make a living, they had only to move to the West and take up the free undeveloped lands and carve farms out of them. They were not likely to sink into abject poverty so long as this outlet existed.

Not only did the West offer them an opportunity to obtain farms, but it gave them many chances at employment. There were cities to be built, railroads to be constructed, and many new enterprises in the newly developed lands. America was,

therefore, a bustling, active nation where nearly all the people could find employment.

Conditions have changed recently, and the problem of security has become more difficult. The undeveloped lands in the West are gone. The country has been settled. New cities are not being built and new lines of railroads are not being constructed. If people cannot find work in the crowded cities, they find themselves in a position similar to that of the workers of Europe. There is no place where they may go with an assurance of greater opportunity. This is one explanation of the fact that we have recently had millions of unemployed in America and of the further fact that about a third of our people are not making enough to live comfortably.

We have, therefore, a problem of making our country and its people economically secure. It is not a hopeless problem by any means. We may find the way to become more prosperous than we ever were in the past, even though we no longer have a West to develop. There are still possibilities of new industries. Though we may not build as many railroads or as many skyscrapers as we did at one time, we may build more and better houses for people to live in. It is estimated that, if the American people are to be decently housed, 14,000,000 houses or apartments must be constructed during the next ten years. This means an average of 1,400,000 a year, which is twice the number that were being constructed during the prosperous days of the 1920's. We may also spend more money in building hospitals. If we should set ourselves to the job of preserving and improving the health of the American people with something like the energy and zeal which characterize us when we go to war, we could transform the nation and we could give employment to hundreds of thousands in fighting disease and maintaining sanitary conditions.

Many Problems

These are only a few of many illustrations of possibilities of developing new industries and giving employment to those who are now out of work, even though we no longer have an undeveloped West. But many problems must be solved before we can turn our energies into these new fields. The masses of the people must somehow have the purchasing power to buy the houses which are constructed and to make use of hospitals and to buy radios and automobiles and refrigerators and other goods which may be produced for the comfort of the population.

This brings us to the very heart of the problem of giving all our people work and of establishing economic security in the nation. How can we bring it about that the people will have incomes large enough so that they can buy the things which our factories produce? Many phases of the problem will be considered in future articles in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

This much can be said, however. If the schools train young people to be skillful

and efficient, more can be produced in the nation, and this will make a higher standard of living possible. If, in addition, the schools teach young people to study our great economic problems thoughtfully and tolerantly, the level of citizenship will be raised and there will be a better chance that the problems will be solved wisely. There will be a better chance, then, that we will find the way to economic stability and security.

These facts should be kept in mind: Though we have wasted many of our natural resources, we still have a wealth of them left. If we encourage widespread education among the people, larger numbers of workers and managers of industry will be efficient so that enough will be produced to supply a good living for all. A highly educated population, furthermore, will find the way to reduce unemployment and see to it that all classes of our population are fairly rewarded for their work. Industry then will be more stable, and an increasing number of American families will be comfortable and secure.

Suggestions

1. See that you are well informed on the problems of economic security. Find out as nearly as you can why it is that so many people are out of work in a land where there are abundant natural resources. A good way to begin the study is to read "Income and Economic Progress," by Harold G. Moulton (Washington: Brookings Institution. \$2.00; paper-bound edition, 50c).

2. Inform yourself concerning the part education may play in making people more secure economically. One of the best books to read along this line is "Education and Economic Well-Being in American Democracy" (Washington: National Education Association. 50c).

3. Make up your mind what action, if any, the government ought to take in dealing with the problem of unemployment and economic security. When you have made up your mind what should be done, express your ideas freely. Discuss the problem with your friends. Write to your senator and congressman or editor so that your opinions may actually exert influence.

4. Make up your mind what training you should undergo in order that you yourself may be efficient and thus contribute to the efficiency of American industry. Secure foundations for this training while you are in school. If your school does not offer a course for the purpose of helping you decide upon a vocation, you should read as much about various occupations as possible, and talk to people engaged in them in the effort to decide which one you are best qualified to enter.

5. Review the six topics which are to be taken up during Education Week and which have been discussed in recent issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. Find out what your school is doing along each of these lines and how it is thus helping to defend the nation.

6. Participate in the observances of Educa-

tion Week in your community. Tell your parents and your friends how the schools are contributing toward the building of a stronger America.

What Schools Do

The schools play an important part in building economic security. Among their numerous contributions listed by the National Education Association, the four which follow are of great importance:

Schools Develop Skilled Minds and Hands—The schools provide pupils with an understanding of the nature of the world in which they live and with the basic skills and knowledge needed in a complex economic world as a growing percentage of occupations calls for graduation from high school or some more extended training. According to the Educational Policies Commission, studies show a "declining demand for labor of the strictly brawn type" and a growing demand for skilled workers.

Schools Provide Vocational Guidance and Training—Early in his school life the child begins to learn about various ways by which people make their living. As he progresses through schools, aptitudes are discovered through tests, exploratory courses, and a wide variety of educational experiences. In the upper grades he surveys the occupational fields in which work is available. He is guided in every possible way toward the making of a wise decision. In specialized high schools, training is provided for selected occupations. Responsibility for follow-up guidance after school leaving is increasingly recognized by the schools.

Schools Develop Intelligence on Economic Problems—The economic problems of the world today are complex. People must be intelligent regarding the great forces of our time if they are satisfactorily to manage their individual and group economic affairs. A person cannot vote intelligently unless he has a knowledge of economic problems. He cannot select his vocation wisely or develop it to the best advantage. The schools help to give pupils the background for these duties and opportunities through the social studies, through vocational education, through general personal growth, and in other ways.

Schools Provide Consumer Education—Ability to earn does not guarantee economic security. Wise spending is almost as important. Through units and courses in consumer education, including studies of advertising, sources of reliable information, and in other ways, pupils become conscious of the need for wise spending.



HOW SCHOOLS BUILD ECONOMIC SECURITY

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